

Flooding of Uttarai Airbase in Rajasthan

†33. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLАО: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Uttarai (Barmer), Rajasthan airbase situated on the western frontier of the country is a strategically very important airstrip;
- (b) if so, the extent of operational area of this airstrip which went under floods in Barmer;
- (c) the earlier instances when this airstrip went under floods; and
- (d) plans to overcome this calamity?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A large extent of operational area of the airstrip was flooded due to heavy rains during 18-24 August, 2006.

(c) Earlier the airfield was also flooded in August, 1990 due to heavy rainfall in the area.

(d) The Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS), Pune has been entrusted to carry out an in-depth study of the topographical and hydrological data of the airfield and recommend remedial measures to prevent flooding in future.

Steps to Prevent MiG-21 Crashes

†34. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the cause of MiG-21 aircrafts missing is settling of dust in a very fine hole in the fuel pipe;
- (b) if so, the reasons for not examining this part well before time; and
- (c) the steps taken to avoid the recurrence of MiG-21 mishaps in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) The cause of a few MiG-21 aircraft accidents in the Indian Air Force (IAF) has been

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

attributed to engine failure due to jamming of the Reciprocating Slide Valve (RSV) of the engine fuel system resulting from possible contamination of fuel.

(b) the engine of MiG-21 aircraft, which is made of numerous small and intricate components, sometimes develop problems at varying stages of exploitation under different environmental conditions. Once an accident takes place, the investigators of the accident have to study the remnants of the components of the system to try and establish the cause of the failure. In cases of fighter crashes, the components are destroyed due to the high impact speed and intense fire in the wreckage. Therefore, it is not always possible to pinpoint the cause of the engine failure. However, in a few MiG-21 aircraft accidents, the problem of jamming of RSV has already been identified by investigators. The remedial measures could not be instituted till the investigators identified the cause.

(c) Several steps are taken by the IAF on a continuous basis to augment flight safety. In this direction, the RSV has been modified in consultation with the designers of the equipment. Besides the use of one-micron filters during refueling of aircraft and maintaining high level of fuel discipline at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) division and operating units have been instituted by the Indian Air Force. These measures have resulted in sharp reduction in the accident rate of the MiG-21 aircraft.

Scams in purchase of essential items

†35. SHRI MAHENDRA SAHNI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that scams have been/are taking place in purchase of essential items like petroleum, timber, wine, poultry and pulses in the army;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the persons found guilty and the action being taken against the guilty officers; and

(d) the details of the steps taken by Government to keep a check on such scams?

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